Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-24 **(Canceled)**

Claim 25 **(New)** An optical disk data erasing apparatus for connecting to a host computer through an interface bus, said optical disk data erasing apparatus comprising:

a judgement means for judging whether or not a loaded optical disk is a write-once optical disk;

an instruction recognition means for recognizing an instruction from the host computer;

a disk recording information acquisition means for acquiring disk recording information relating to a data-recorded area or a data-unrecorded area of the write-once optical disk based on a disk recording information acquisition instruction issued by the host computer;

a determination means for determining whether or not data are recorded on the write-once optical disk based on the disk recording information obtained by said disk recording information acquisition means; and

an erasing means for executing a data erasing process based on the instruction, wherein

said erasing means overwrites the optical disk when said judgement means judges the optical disk to be the write-once optical disk and said determination means determines data are recorded on the write-once optical disk, by irradiating the optical disk with a laser beam having a same recording power as that at recording, thereby erasing data recorded in the data-recorded area of the optical disk, and when said determination means determines data are not recorded on the write-once optical disk, said determination means returns an error signal to the host computer to notify a user that the data erasing process has not been executed.

Claim 26 **(New)** An optical disk data erasing apparatus as defined in Claim 25, further comprising:

a notification means for notifying the user of the disk recording information obtained by said disk recording information acquisition means, through the host computer; and

an erasing area detection means for detecting, when an instruction which specifies a data erasing area is issued from the user through the host computer based on the disk recording information, an area corresponding to the specified data erasing area based on the instruction,

wherein said erasing means erases the data recorded in the erasing area detected by said erasing area detection means as the data-recorded area.

Claim 27 **(New)** An optical disk data erasing apparatus for connecting to a host computer through an interface bus, said optical disk data erasing apparatus comprising:

a judgement means for judging whether or not a loaded optical disk is a write-once optical disk;

an instruction recognition means for recognizing an instruction from the host computer;

a disk recording information acquisition means for acquiring disk recording information relating to a data-recorded area or a data-unrecorded area of the write-once optical disk based on a disk recording information acquisition instruction issued by the host computer;

a determination means for determining whether or not data are recorded on the write-once optical disk based on the disk recording information obtained by said disk recording information acquisition means; and

an erasing means for executing a data erasing process based on the instruction, wherein

said erasing means overwrites the optical disk when said judgement means judges the optical disk to be the write-once optical disk and said determination means determines data are recorded on the write-once optical disk, by irradiating the optical disk with a laser beam having a higher recording power than that at recording, thereby erasing data recorded in the data-recorded area of the optical disk, and when said determination means determines data are not recorded on the write-once optical disk, said determination

means returns an error signal to the host computer to notify a user that the data erasing process has not been executed.

Claim 28 **(New)** An optical disk data erasing apparatus as defined in Claim 25, further comprising:

a notification means for notifying the user of the disk recording information obtained by said disk recording information acquisition means, through the host computer; and

an erasing area detection means for detecting, when an instruction which specifies a data erasing area is issued from the user through the host computer based on the disk recording information, an area corresponding to the specified data erasing area based on the instruction,

wherein said erasing means erases the data recorded in the erasing area detected by said erasing area detection means as the data-recorded area.

Claim 29 **(New)** An optical disk data erasing method comprising:

judging whether or not a loaded optical disk is a write-once optical disk;

recognizing an instruction from a host computer;

acquiring disk recording information relating to a data-recorded area or a data-unrecorded area of the write-once optical disk based on a disk recording information acquisition instruction issued by the host computer;

determining whether or not data are recorded on the write-once optical disk based on the disk recording information obtained by said acquiring operation;

overwriting the optical disk using a data erasing process based on the instruction when said judging operation judges the optical disk to be a write-once optical disk and said determining operation determines data are recorded on the write-once optical disk, by irradiating the optical disk with a laser beam having a same recording power as that at recording, thereby erasing data recorded in the data-recorded area of the optical disk, and when said determining operation determines data are not recorded on the optical disk, said determining operation returns an error signal to the host computer to notify the user that the data erasing process has not been executed.

Claim 30 **(New)** An optical disk data erasing method as defined in Claim 29, further comprising:

notifying the user of the disk recording information which is obtained in said acquiring operation, through the host computer;

detecting, when an instruction which specifies a data erasing area is issued from the user through the host computer based on the disk recording information, an area corresponding to the specified erasing area based on the instruction,

wherein said overwriting operation erases data recorded in the erasing area, which is detected by said detecting operation.

Claim 31 **(New)** An optical disk data erasing method comprising:

judging whether or not a loaded optical disk is a write-once optical disk;

recognizing an instruction from a host computer;

acquiring disk recording information relating to a data-recorded area or a data-unrecorded area of the write-once optical disk based on a disk recording information acquisition instruction issued by the host computer;

determining whether or not data are recorded on the write-once optical disk based on the disk recording information obtained by said acquiring operation;

overwriting the optical disk using a data erasing process based on the instruction when said judging operation judges the optical disk to be a write-once optical disk and said determining operation determines data are recorded on the write-once optical disk, by irradiating the optical disk with a laser beam having a higher recording power than that at recording, thereby erasing data recorded in the data-recorded area of the optical disk, and when said determining operation determines data are not recorded on the optical disk, said determining operation returns an error signal to the host computer to notify the user that the data erasing process has not been executed.

Claim 32 **(New)** An optical disk data erasing method as defined in Claim 31, further comprising:

notifying the user of the disk recording information which is obtained in said acquiring operation, through the host computer;

detecting, when an instruction which specifies a data erasing area is issued from the user through the host computer based on the disk recording information, an area corresponding to the specified erasing area based on the instruction,

wherein said overwriting operation erases data recorded in the erasing area, which is detected by said detecting operation.